

Addendum Sheet

G-IV-A-072  
Monte Vista  
Oakland vicinity  
Garrett County

Preparer: Stuart Paul Dixon  
Date Prepared: 28 March 1997

A survey undertaken in January of 1997 revealed that Monte Vista has been demolished since its previous documentation in 1981.

G-IV-A-072

Monte Vista

Oakland

Private

c.1880

Monte Vista, although abandoned and deteriorating, is a survival of one of the numerous Garrett County resort hotels built in the 1880's

It is a large 2-story frame dwelling covered with German siding and measures 5 bays across the facade which faces northeast. The overall condition of the house has deteriorated; the rear, southwest elevation, has fallen in.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

G-IV-A-072  
MAGI #1208495625  
G

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

"Monte Vista"

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Monte Vista Rd. 600 feet west, and approx. 1/4 mile S.E. of intersection with

CITY, TOWN

Oakland

Underwood Road.

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

☒ VICINITY OF

6th

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Garrett County

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

☐ DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

☐ STRUCTURE

☐ SITE

☐ OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

☐ PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

☐ BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

☐ IN PROCESS

☐ BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

☐ OCCUPIED

☒ UNOCCUPIED

☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

**ACCESSIBLE**

☐ YES RESTRICTED

☐ YES UNRESTRICTED

☒ NO

**PRESENT USE**

☐ AGRICULTURE

☐ COMMERCIAL

☐ EDUCATIONAL

☐ ENTERTAINMENT

☐ GOVERNMENT

☐ INDUSTRIAL

☐ MILITARY

☐ MUSEUM

☐ PARK

☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

☐ RELIGIOUS

☐ SCIENTIFIC

☐ TRANSPORTATION

☐ OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

☐ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Garrett County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Third and Alder Streets

CITY, TOWN

Oakland

STATE

Maryland 21550

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

None

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION****CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT  
☐ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☒ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

"Monte Vista" is located on a hill south of Oakland. It is reportedly one of the highest residences in Maryland, at 2700 feet.

It is a large 2-story frame dwelling covered with German siding and measures 5 bays across the facade which faces northeast. The overall condition of the house has deteriorated; the rear, southwest elevation, has fallen in. The exterior was originally painted grey, in recent times it has been painted bright orange.

A 1-story frame, shed roofed porch supported by a concrete block foundation and plain wood columns runs across the facade and wraps around the northwest elevation.

There are 4 gable-roofed dormer windows along the facade roof.

There is a central entrance on the facade, under the porch. The original door has been replaced by a modern plywood door.

The 4 windows at the first story facade under the porch are full-length casement windows made up of two, 8 pane windows that open out onto the porch. Other windows are two-over-two sash, including the dormer windows and have plain board surrounds with drip molded window heads. The 2 windows located at the southeast end of the second story facade have shutters.

Interior molding consists of symmetrically molded surrounds with bulls eye corner-blocks.

Interior wood is Georgia pine, except for the staircase which is walnut. (Jarboe, p. 610). Prior to 1900, Monte Vista was operated as a hotel with 19 bedrooms. (Jarboe, p. 610).

A frame stable is located a few hundred feet north of the house.

**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY**

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Resort Home	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

c.1880

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Monte Vista, although abandoned and deteriorating, is a survival of one of the numerous Garrett County resort hotels built in the 1880's. During the Thomasson ownership, it is reported that Abert Einstein visited Monte Vista during one of his trips to Deep Creek Lake.

It was built c. 1880 by a Dr. King of Washington D.C. as a summer hotel. It was a popular spot and run under good management until Dr. King's death in the late 1890's. It fell to a brother in Chicago, Ill. who sold it to Col. Nelson Thomasson of Chicago in 1901. (Weeks, p. 50).

After substantial renovation, the Thomasson family used Monte Vista as a summer-home from 1902 to 1918. After the death of Mrs. Thomasson, a son, Nelson, Jr. and his family used the summer home until 1940, when a daughter, Nanniene Thomasson Offutt of Oakland, took over the house. From 1944 to 1947, Mrs. Offutt operated Monte Vista as an Inn. In 1947 it was sold to Floyd Custer (Weeks, p. 50 and Jarboe, p. 608).

A story of Nanniene Thomasson Offutt's first visit to Monte Vista when her father came to Oakland to buy it, is recorded in The Glades Star. She recalls that they arrived in Oakland via train at the "dingiest, dirtiest, smallest B & O station" imaginable. (Jarboe, p. 609).

The Thomasson's were shown Monte Vista by John Jarboe, a local contractor and postmaster. It was in run down condition and everything had been left in the house: beds, tables, bureaus, washstands, chairs, white ironstone plates, tureens, thick glasses, and in a long dining room there were over 2 dozen chairs and several large tables. There were old glass lamps with oil still in them and dozens of brass and pewter candlesticks. Mrs. Offutt recalls a 4 room whitewashed cottage located 50 feet from the house, also in deteriorated condition. (Jarboe, p. 609-610).

According to Mrs. K. Offutt of Oakland, Albert Einstein visited Monte Vista during one of his trips to nearby Deep Creek Lake.

Other famous visitors in the late 19th century included, the actress, Leslie Carter and her producer David Belasco (K. Offutt).

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Jarboe, John M. "Monte Vista", The Glades Star, Vol. 4, No. 1, June 1969.

Offutt, Mrs. K., Interview, November 1980.

Weeks, Thekla Fundenberg. Oakland Centennial History 1849-1949. Oakland, MD:  
Sincell Printing Co., 1949.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Donna Ware, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust/Bureau of Mines

DATE

September 1981

STREET & NUMBER

Shaw House, 21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

(301) 269-2438

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

V. 4 #1 JUNE 1915  
(misnumbered)  
V. 3 #37)

C-IV-A-072

### Monte Vista

By John M. Jarboe

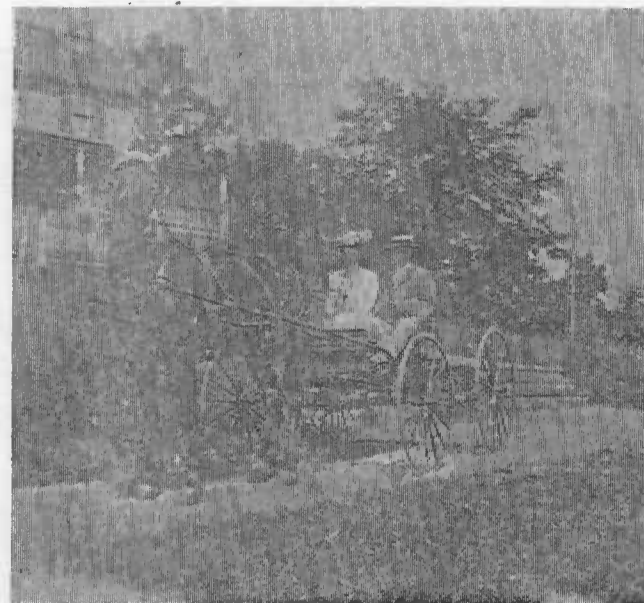
Recent dinner guests of mine were Nell Offutt Chesley and her husband Fred now living in Syracuse, N. Y.—an excellent dinner at Cornish Manor. As I set the stage for the tale to follow, Cornish Manor will be referred to as Thorncroft, the summer home of Judge Talmadge Lambert of Washington, D. C.

In my home after dinner Nell, Fred and I brought the past alive and very vividly the days of Monte Vista. Shortly after their return to Syracuse I had from Nell the story of how the property was acquired and the happy days spent there—this account has, like a jigsaw puzzle, been welded by Nell from Jottings left with her by her mother, the late Nanniene

Thomasson Offutt. I find it a vivid picture of the gracious living of the Nineteen Hundreds and think it fitting that it be enjoyed by the many readers of The Glades Star.

Let us term this a review of the play:

Colonel Thomasson, a business man of Chicago, acquired Monte in 1901. The Nina of the story was his wife—author of the jottings Nanniene, their daughter and later to become the wife of Charles Elwood Offutt and the mother of Nell Offutt Chesley. The large frame house on Main Street, Oakland, was the home of Daniel E. Offutt (now the Minnich Funeral Home.) The Shellabarger home—Hazelhurst, was bought by Elwood Offutt shortly after his marriage and is now the American Legion Home. The Judge



Miss Nanniene Thomasson and brother, Nelson, at Monte Vista.

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### THE GLADES STAR

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PRINTED by Sincell Publishing Co., Inc., Oakland, Maryland. FOR SALE by the secretary and at the Ruth Enlow Library. Single copy, 50 cents.

**MEMBERSHIP:** All persons interested in the Garrett County area are eligible.

The membership fee is \$2 for single and \$3 for joint (husband and wife), renewable annually and four issues of this quarterly bulletin. The Glades Star, is included with each membership. Life membership is \$20.00.

Wilson home referred to was torn down about 1948 to clear the acreage for the Garrett Memorial Hospital.

The Mr. Jarboe of the tale was my father, a building contractor. Thorncroft, Hazlehurst and many homes in Oakland and Mt. Lake Park were constructed by him.

Colonel Thomasson became the owner of Monte in 1901 and after much renovating the family arrived from Chicago in July of 1902. Mrs. Thomasson died in 1918 so the home was closed for two seasons. It then became the summer home of a son, Nelson, Jr., and his wife Indie, until 1940 when it was deeded to Mrs. Offutt. In 1946, she sold the property to a Mr. Custer and moved to a smaller house on the land known as Acorn Acres which is now the home of the Bob Proudfoots. As we now go to the days of the Nineteen Hundreds, let us give the play the title of: "My Summer Home in Oakland," by Nanniene Thomasson Offutt, who opened with these lines:

(Setting — The Thomasson home in Chicago.)

Back to the house to change for dinner, we found our skirts were soaked. Long pique skirts and under-petticoats were certainly never meant for golf. Several years later tweed or linen skirts at least six inches from the ground became the style for sports. I never played enough golf to be interested in it, either then or later.

Soon after dinner Pop tossed two photographs on the library table and said to Mama, "Here, Nina, is your summer home!"

"Now, Mr. Thomasson," she said, "What is this? I've always said one house is enough for me." Pop explained that in selling a southside lot, a man was so anxious for it that besides money he also threw in a summer home in Maryland. "It couldn't be much," said Mama, "Get rid of it at once because the heat would be terrible in the summer that far south."

I had always wanted a summer home. Many of our friends had cottages near Chicago, but Mama always contended she wouldn't be interested.

The pictures Pop had were of the end of a porch with a most beautiful mountain view and the other one was of a driveway into the woods. When I heard that the place was six miles from Deer Park, Maryland, I recalled Mrs. Chew telling about stopping at the Deer Park Hotel for a night on their way home from Baltimore. In fact, both she and Elise told of a park with tame deer and the whole place seemed like a fairyland to them.

Strangely enough, Pop didn't say much but during the summer he let little hints fall casually and one remark was, "By the way, that house is all furnished, dishes and glassware, even carriages in the stable." Being in the South, I imagined at once an old plantation with Colonial furniture! "The name of the place", went on my father, "is Monte Vista." That settled it for me, a second Mount Vernon! Many years ago I had told Nelson that I would name our summer home Mount something and here it was all wait-

ing for me!

Needless to say, it was easy to persuade Pop to go with me to look at our new summer home in Maryland! We arrived at 6 in the morning at the small town of Oakland with dingiest, dirtiest smallest B&O station you can imagine! We had opened the train windows and tons of soot had covered both our faces until we were as black as the porter. Having only ten minutes to dress, Pop stepped onto the station platform carrying his old alpaca coat and cap, which Mama hadn't wanted him to take at all, and with his sooty face he was a sight to behold!

A young man, very neat and unusually clean, stepped forward and said he had been asked to meet us to take us to the hotel. The agent of our place was the postmaster and he would call after breakfast as the mail was just in. Later we found this man who met us was the owner of the town's stable, John Sweeney, our first friend in the town of Oakland and a good friend for over 40 years.

We were driven to the hotel just up the hill, a big rambling ugly one, owned by the railroad, but anything looked good to us in our filthy condition. We were put on the main floor, overlooking a high front porch so when an elderly gentleman appeared and introduced himself as Mr. Jarboe, postmaster, and owner of the keys, we were delighted and got into the survey. We drove over a railroad bridge and out a dirt road for a mile, then a gate was opened

G-II-A-072



and up a tree lined drive, up and up, the view becoming more and more extended until at last we were in front of a big grey wooden house with a long front porch. Although my hopes for another Mt. Vernon were dashed, I could visualize in time a really lovely place. The only remark Pop made was, "A board is missing in the porch floor!" "That is nothing," said Mr. Jarboe and Pop answered, "It would be rather bad if one fell through it!" But I was anxious to see inside but everything was shuttered and dark. By degrees, we opened the windows and never did I see such an upset place.

Mr. Jarboe told us that the owner had left in a great hurry which was quite obvious. We went into a long dining room with big tables and over two dozen chairs. Old glass lamps with oil still in them and candle sticks by the dozen, some pewter and brass and some of tin. In the pantry were dozens of white ironstone plates, tureens, and thick glasses of every style and kind. "Why," Pop said, "this must have been a hotel." "It was a hotel with 19 bedrooms," said Mr. Jarboe.

On the second and third floors we found in each room an oak-en bed, table, bureau, wash-stand and chair. As we came back downstairs, I said, "When we paint all the woodwork and furniture, it'll be better," and Mr. Jarboe said, "This is all Georgia pine. No one would paint this!" As far as I could see, the stair-rail was the only good looking wood and Mr. Jarboe explained that it was made

from walnut taken from the trees on the place.

Besides all of this there was a small whitewashed cottage consisting of four rooms about 50 feet off the side of the big house and this was in worse condition than the main house. Old pictures and cancelled checks and bills were strewn everywhere. On a shelf I found 15 yards of lovely black corded silk. I took that also two pictures from the front hall, views of Lake Mohauk, just like the ones in our upstairs hall in Chicago.

We went down to the stable where we found a buggy, mountain wagon and a surrey with all the necessary harness but nary a tool! Mr. Jarboe said, "The neighbors, I guess, have borrowed the tools!" which was only too true as we discovered later.

As we climbed in the surrey to return to Oakland, Mr. Jarboe said, "Well, Colonel, what do you think of it?" and Pop said, "I believe in time I can sell it. In the meantime, we can fix it up but there's too much to do this year." As we left the grounds we saw two big hay-stacks and Mr. Jarboe said he had always had the hay cut and the money from that amounted to \$60.00 which paid the taxes! Pop was very pleased at this so he asked Mr. Jarboe to continue with his excellent management.

After lunch we made a tour of the surrounding countryside in Sweeney's surrey. In Mt. Lake, one mile from Oakland, there was a summer chautauqua several hotels and cottages and

across the railroad tracks was a large hotel called Loch Lynn and run by a lady from Wheeling, W. Va. This hotel was out of bounds for the chautauqua and catered to an entirely different set of people. There were several summer cottages near by too.

Over the mountains, six miles away was the famous summer hotel of Deer Park with many cottages owned and operated by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. There was a small village and a summer settlement of Philadelphia people headed by Dr. Wier Mitchell. There was also a cottage where President Cleveland had spent his honeymoon!

Pop was most interested in all of this and asked the reason for so much activity as there were no factories and the towns were only small villages and the answer was the marvelous climate, free from hay fever and mosquitoes!

This glorious country was situated on a plateau and at Monte Vista, one of the highest points, it was 3000 feet above sea level.

Mr. Sweeney informed us that Oakland had a population of 2,000, a main street, two banks, a commercial hotel noted for its good food, and in the summer many homes had rooms for rent and city families flocked in for the season. He also told us about the man of the town who owned the biggest store, was president of the bank, ran the electric plant, and owned property all over the county and nearby states. He lived on Main Street in the largest frame house there and had

three sons and two daughters.

As we drove, John said, "There are three houses along this road built by Washington lawyers, the first one is Judge Lambert's, next is Judge Wilson's and opposite is— I gave one look and exclaimed, "Look, it's a copy of the Connecticut Building at the World's Fair!" "So it is," agreed Pop, "your favorite building." John Sweeney added that it was the home of Judge Shellabarger, the only house in town built by an architect. We noted the name posted over the driveway was Hazelhurst because, I suppose, the grounds were surrounded with hazel bushes. "That house," I said, "is my idea of a real home!" and to this day I still think the same as I did then!

That evening as we went into the hotel dining room for dinner we saw a young red-haired lady with an old gentleman. "Father and daughter," whispered Pop but he was wrong for once as we later learned it was Mr. Belasco and the lady was Mrs. Leslie Carter. They were there to rehearse for her new play, "Maryland, My Maryland."

We were seated at one of the long tables and a Mrs. Thorne, sitting at one end, proceeded to introduce us to her son, James, and a Mrs. Buck, with her three daughters and a grand-daughter, Emily. Everyone was very agreeable and charming and anxious to tell us about the place. Mrs. Thorne owned a summer house right next to Monte Vista called Park View, but she was renting it for the summer so she and her son

(misnumbered V. 3 #37)

stayed at the hotel as the mountain air was so beneficial for his asthma. Later there was dancing in the ball room and I danced a few times with James Thorne, who was being very attentive to Mrs. Buck's granddaughter, Emily. I also danced with Ed Offutt, the oldest son of the "man of the town".

The next morning we were up bright and early. At the breakfast table I suddenly felt quite dizzy and faint. Pop became so worried that he called the town doctor who arrived in record time, just five minutes. Pop, in his excitement, berated him for taking such a long time to come! The kind face of Dr. McComas soon allayed our fears as he explained that the altitude had affected me and I would be fine shortly.

I stayed in bed for two days as the doctor admonished Pop for trying to see too much in one day and I really needed rest. However, Pop had a wonderful time just the same! He talked to everyone who came into the hotel and he loved people and was interested in everyone so consequently people liked him. He became more enthused about this new summer resort by the minute! I remember he discussed the Carters. Mrs. Carter was originally from Kentucky but was most unhappily married as the Carter family didn't approve of her. Then she met Mr. Belasco who assured her he would back her in the theatre if she studied hard. She filed for divorce and Mr. Carter was given custody of their child with the understanding that when the boy was 21

years old, he would be allowed to choose between his parents. Mr. Carter asked her to give up his name too but she replied that she would retain the full name and would make it famous, which she certainly did as she was always known as Mrs. Leslie Carter. The following year Leslie, Jr. was at Yale and when his mother opened her new play there Leslie decided to stay with her. Mr. Carter died very soon after that choice was made.

I was well aware that Pop was simply itching to speak to Mrs. Carter but his good sense prevented it and probably Mr. Belasco too! They were both very busy rehearsing every day in a rented room where Mrs. Carter practiced jumpink off a ladder pretending to catch the bells of a church. Later I heard that she practiced also in a small church outside of Baltimore and I saw the church often on our way down to Baltimore many years later.

The following morning we left Oakland and we felt we were leaving many friends for several came to the station with us to wave goodbye. As we rounded the curve of the railroad, we saw Monte Vista high up on the mountain and as we were talking about it, a man interrupted us by saying, "My father-in-law is Mr. Jarboe so I can tell you all about Monte Vista!" The next hour on the way through the beautiful mountains into Cumberland we were regaled with information about our new home.

(End of the Play)

G-IV-A-072





G-IV-A-072

"Monte Vista"

Garrett Co., Md.

~~C. Crawford~~, 8/81

Facade: NE elevation

FIGURE 151



G-IV-A-072

"Monte Vista"

Garrett Co., Md.

C. Crawford, 8/81

Facade: NE elevation





G-IV-A-072

"Monte Vista"

Garrett Co., Md.

~~C. Crawford~~, 8/81

Interior: Main staircase

FIGURE 152